

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, 17-20, 39, 41, 50, and 51. The Examiner also allowed claims 1-3, 5-11, 21-24, 26, and 28-38. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 14-16 and 42-44 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims each contain allowable subject matter. Applicants canceled claims 4, 25, 27, 40, and 45-49 in a previous communication. Applicants thank the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims.

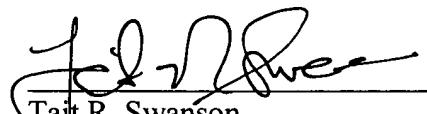
Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, by the present Response, Applicants amend claims 12, 39, and 50 to further clarify the claimed subject matter and cancel claims 16 and 43. Particularly, Applicants amend independent claims 12 and 39 to incorporate allowable subject matter originally recited in claims 16 and 43, respectively. In addition, Applicants amend claim 50 to incorporate allowable subject matter recited by claim 32. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-24, 26, 28-39, 41, 42, 44, 50, and 51 will remain pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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